

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00107 141547Z

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4802

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 1162

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0107

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, AF

SUBJ: HOROWITZ VISIT: ZAMBIAN FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS URGE

THE US TO REMAIN IN THE ILO

REF: STATE 294250

SUMMARY: THE ZAMBIAN FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS BELIEVES THE US
SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REMAIN IN THE ILO. FOR ITS PART
THE FEDERATION WOULD SUPPORT STEPS BY THE GRZ WHICH WOULD
ACCOMMODATE MOST OF THE US CONCERNS WHICH HAS LED IT TO CONSIDER
PULLING OUT. END SUMMARY

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00107 141547Z

1. MR. HOROWITZ OUTLINED FOR THE FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS THE
CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAD CAUSED SECRETARY KISSINGER TO SEND HIS
LETTER OF NOVEMBER 1975, GIVING NOTICE OF THE US INTENT TO
WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO.

2. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ZAMBIA FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS,
DOMINIC C. MULASISHO, SPOKE FOR THE FEDERATION. HE SAID THE

ILO WAS EXTREMELY USEFUL TO MANKIND AND HAD ACHIEVED A GREAT DEAL IN THE AREA OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS. HE CONSIDERED THAT THE U.S. WAS THE LEAST LIKELY CANDIDATE TO OPT OUT OF THE ILO. WHEN A COUNTRY LIKE THE US HAS THE MEANS TO HELP AN ORGANIZATION IT HAS A GREATER OBLIGATION TO STAY IN THE ORGANIZATION AND ATTEMPT TO REFORM IT FROM WITHIN. HE OBSERVED THAT IN ZAMBIA EMPLOYERS AS A GROUP MAINTAINED A DISTINCT IDENTITY EVEN THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HELD SHARES IN MANY CORPORATIONS. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED THAT THE ENTRY OF GOVERNMENT INTO MANUFACTURING AND COMMERCE, WHICH DID NOT EXIST AT THE TIME OF THE ILO'S FOUNDING, SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED. WHEN THE GOVERNMENT IS A SHAREHOLDER THE QUESTION ARISES IF THERE IS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE EMPLOYERS. MULAISHO SUGGESTED THAT THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ILO MUST ACCOMMODATE ITSELF TO THIS NEW SITUATION. REGARDING THE SELECTIVE APPLICATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS, MULAISHO SAID THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE ILO IS EQUALITY OF TREATMENT AND HIS GROUP STRONGLY SUPPORTED THIS CONCEPT. REGARDING POLITICIZATION OF THE ILO, MULAISHO SAID THIS WAS A COMPLEX MATTER AND THE US SHOULD NOT EXPECT THAT POLITICAL ISSUES WOULD NOT BE RAISED IN THE ILO. HOWEVER, THE FEDERATION AGREED THAT EXTRANEEOUS POLITICAL ISSUES SHOULD NOT BE INTRODUCED IN THE ILO. THE US SHOULD, AS IT IS DOING, DRAW ATTENTION TO THESE ANOMALIES TO LIMIT THEIR OCCURRENCE.

3. HOROWITZ REPLIED THAT THE US HAD TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO KEEP THE ILO FOCUSED ON ILO CONCERNS. THE US WAS NOW APPROACHING INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS TO ASK THEM TO EXAMINE THE WAY THE ILO WAS TENDING IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND TO MAKE A DECISION ON WHAT WAY THEY WANTED THE ORGANIZATION TO GO. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 00107 141547Z

4. ANOTHER REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EMPLOYERS SAID THAT IN LIGHT OF THE LONG HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION, TWO YEARS WAS TOO SHORT A TIME TO EXPECT THE ORGANIZATION TO TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION AND THAT THE TIME LIMIT SHOULD BE LENGTHENED. HOROWITZ OBSERVED THAT THE TWO YEAR TIME LIMIT WAS THE ONE IMPOSED BY THE ILO CONSTITUTION. THE U.S. HAD ONLY FILED ITS LETTER OF INTENT AFTER OBSERVING TRENDS OVER AT LEAST A DECADE AND AFTER EFFORTS TO AFFECT CORRECTIVE ACTION PROVED NON-PRODUCTIVE. SPECIFICALLY, AT THE FEBRUARY/MARCH MEETING OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY THE U.S. WILL BE WATCHING ACTION ON AN AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING ORDERS TO SET UP GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING WHAT TYPE OF RESOLUTIONS THE ILO MAY CONSIDER. THE US RECOGNIZES THAT POLITICAL ISSUES HAVE A PLACE BEFORE THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SECURITY COUNCIL. HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF THE ILO, IT WANTS THE FOCUS TO BE ON THE AREAS OF ITS SPECIALIZATION.

5. AFTER THE FORMAL SESSION INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION SOUGHT OUT EMBOFFS TO ASSURE THEM THAT THE FEDERATION WAS

STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE INEQUITABLE APPLICATION OF ILO REGULATIONS
AND TO THE POLITICIZATION OF THAT ORGANIZATION. THEY SAID
THEY WOULD MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO THE GRZ. LOW

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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